

REMARKS

Applicant amends claims 1, 2, 5-7, 12, 16-19 and 21 and cancels claims 20, 22 and 23. New claims 24-26 have been added. No new matter was added by this amendment. Support for the amendments can at least be found in the Figures and at p. 7, lines 22 to p. 8, line 3; p. 12, lines 5-13; p. 15, line 10 to p. 16, line 23; p. 18, line 4 to p. 19, line 11; p. 20, line 8 to p. 21, line 27; p. 22, lines 16-21; p. 23, line 27 to p. 24, line 7; and p. 26, lines 2-15.

The amendments to the specification and to claim 7 are included to correct an obvious error and to clarify the subject matter. Support for the amendments to the specification can at least be found at p. 18, line 13 to p. 19, line 11; p. 25, lines 12-15; and p. 26, line 18 to p. 27, line 8.

Claims 1-19, 21 and 24-26 are currently pending.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-15 and 18-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant's amendment of claims 1, 18, 19 and 21 obviates the basis of the rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

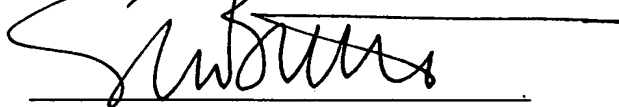
Ohwada et al. (US 6,692,134) in view of Nakamura (US 6,652,109)

Claims 19, 21, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohwada (U.S. Patent 6,692,134) in view of Nakamura (US 6,652,109). Claims 20 and 22 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 19 and 21 to incorporate the dependent limitations from claims 20 and 22. In addition, Applicants have canceled claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sid Bennett', is written over a horizontal line.

Sid Bennett (Reg. No. 53,981)

Agent for Applicants

Customer No. 00757

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200